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JUL 11 2006

PATENT APPLN. NO. 10/673,610
RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

PATENT
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REMARKS

The Office has maintained the rejection of claims 1-5, 7-8, and 16 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Okada (JP 10-247520, translation) ("Okada") that was made in the first action dated November 17, 2005. Claims 17-19 have been allowed and claims 6 and 9-15 have been indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The claims have been amended to place the application in condition for allowance. Specifically, claims 6 and 9 have been rewritten in independent form and claim 1 has been cancelled. Claims 2 to 4, 7, 8, 15 and 16 have been amended to recite a dependency on amended (and allowable) claim 6. Claim 5, which recites a dependency on claim 4, is now indirectly dependent on allowable claim 6.

Therefore, the 35 U.S.C. 102(b) rejection and alternative 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection of claims 1-5, 7-8, and 16 over Okada has been avoided. Removal of the rejection of the claims and issuance of a Notice of Allowance and Notice of Allowability are believed to be in order and are respectfully requested.

The foregoing is believed to be a complete and proper response to the Office Action dated April 11, 2006, and is believed to place

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this application in condition for allowance. If, however, minor issues remain that can be resolved by means of a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below.


Attached hereto is Form PTO-2038 for payment of the \$200.00 fee for an excess independent claim.

In the event that this paper is not considered to be timely filed, applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fee for any such extension may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 111833.

In the event any additional fees are required, please also charge our Deposit Account No. 111833.

Respectfully submitted,

KUBOVCIK & KUBOVCIK



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